YuYu Hakusho™



SHONEN JUMP GRAPHIC NOVEL

Story & Art by

Yoshihiro Togashi

volume 4



"IF I COULD BE REBORN AS ANYONE, WHO WOULD I BE?" PART 4: THE UNKNOWN FACE IN A COMMERCIAL. AN INSANE NUMBER OF VIEWER REQUESTS POURS IN ASKING WHO I AM AFTER I APPEAR ON SOME ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE MAKER'S TV COMMERCIAL. FOR A WHILE, I AM IN THE SPOTLIGHT, BUT MY AGE, GENDER, AND ORIGINS REMAIN COMPLETELY UNKNOWN. RUMORS ABOUND ABOUT ME IN SOCIETY: RUMORS THAT I AM THE CHILD OF A ENTERTAINMENT-COMPANY PRESIDENT BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK, RUMORS OF MY MENTAL BREAKDOWN AND SUICIDE, RUMORS OF MY GHOST BEING SEEN, RUMORS OF MY BEING AN ALIEN, ETC. I BECOME THE YEAR'S MOST TALKED-ABOUT PERSON IN THE "WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?" CATEGORY. BUT MY IDENTITY REMAINS UNKNOWN. IN REALITY, I AM NINE MONTHS PREGNANT, LIVING IN YAMAGATA PREFECTURE, MARRIED TO A FARMER THREE YEARS MY SENIOR, AND WORKING HARD AT GROWING RICE.

—YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI, 1991

Born in 1966, Yoshihiro Togashi won the prestigious Tezuka Award for new manga artists at the age of 20. He debuted in Japan's WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP magazine in 1988 with the romantic comedy manga **Tende Showaru Cupid**. His hit comic **YuYu Hakusho** ran in WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP from 1990 to 1994. Togashi's other manga include **I'm Not Afraid of Wolves!**, **Level E**, and **Hunter x Hunter**.

YUYU HAKUSHO VOL. 4
The SHONEN JUMP Graphic Novel Edition

This graphic novel contains material that was originally published in English in SHONEN JUMP #13-16.

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YUYU HAKUSHO is rated "T" for teens. It contains fantasy violence.
It is recommended for ages 13 and up.

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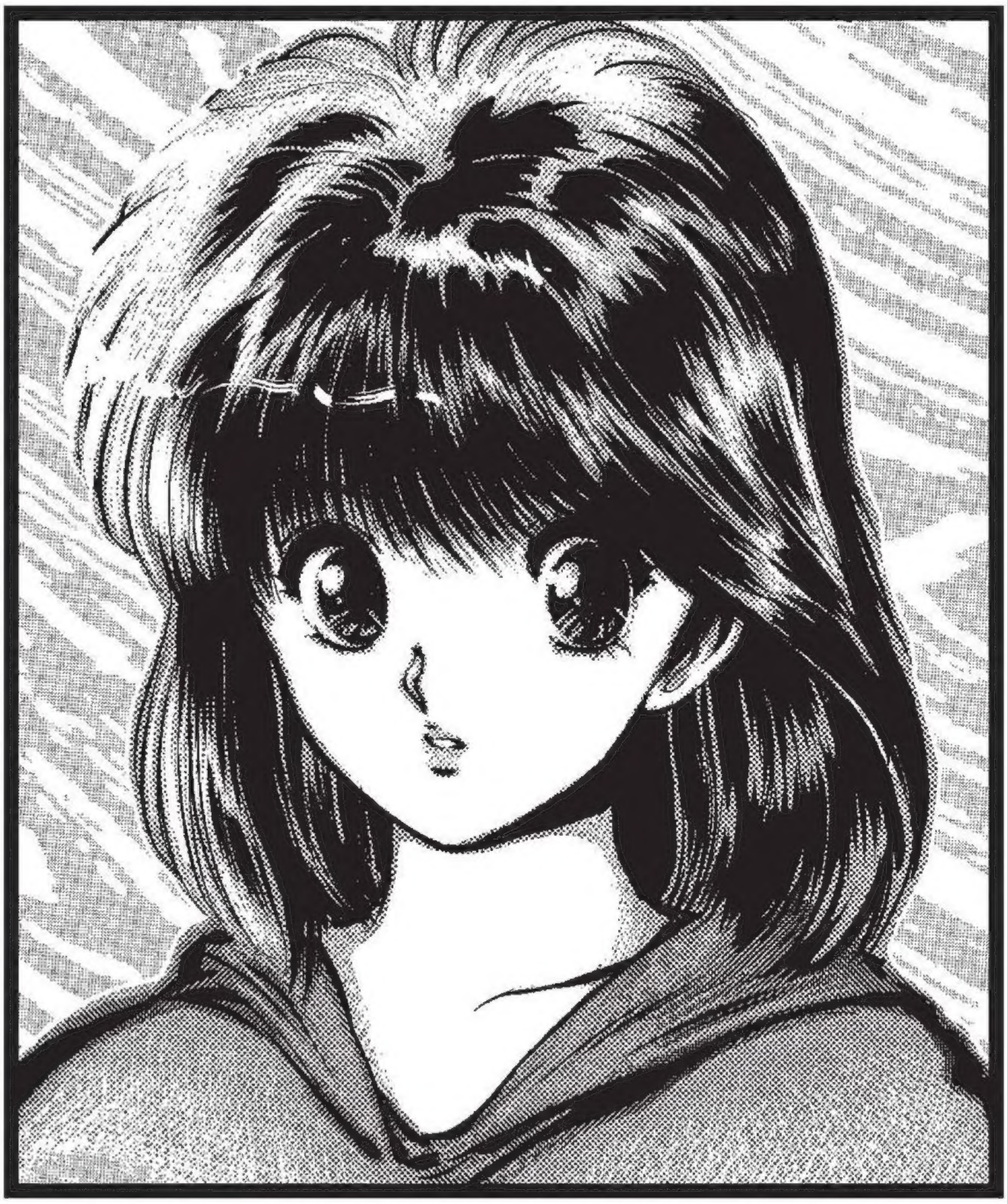
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SHONEN JUMP GRAPHIC NOVEL

YUYU HAKUSHO™

Vol.4
Training Day



STORY AND ART BY
YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI



Botan
The ferrywoman of the Sanzu River (the River Styx in Western mythology), Botan delivers Yusuke's assignments from the Underworld.



Genkai
A legendary demon hunter and master of *reiki*, she can heal or destroy with a touch… and humans and demons alike would love to learn her secrets.

When surly street punk Yusuke Urameshi died in an unexpected act of self-sacrifice, the Underworld decided to give him a second chance… and he returned to life a changed teenager, armed with supernatural powers and a new perspective. Now he's the Underworld's new supernatural detective, keeping the Earth clean of demonic scum.

Yusuke's current assignment is also his training: he's undercover at the dojo of elderly martial-arts master Genkai, competing with other tough guys for the right to learn her incredible demon-fighting techniques. According to Underworld intelligence, somewhere in the lineup is the demon Rando, who's already slaughtered ninety-nine masters of magic and martial arts in his quest for ultimate power. Unable to figure out which of the aspiring demon-slayers is Rando, Yusuke can think of only one solution: fight his way through the competition and unmask him in the final battle. And, as if Yusuke doesn't have enough headaches, his old rival Kuwabara is also in the competition…

THE STORY SO FAR:

浦飯温子
(うらめしあつこ)

Atsuko
Yusuke's loving but flaky mom, who's better at partying than looking after her delinquent son.

浦飯幽助
(うらめしゆうすけ)

Yusuke Urameshi
The toughest student at Sarayashiki Junior High – until his untimely death. Now he's learning how to use the powers he developed in the afterlife to protect the mortal world.

雪村螢子
(ゆきむらけいこ)

Keiko Yukimura
Yusuke's childhood friend. Now she's a straight-A student at Sarayashiki, but she still has a soft spot for her troublemaking classmate.

桑原
(くわばら)

Kuwabara
Another Sarayashiki delinquent, and Yusuke's chief rival. An encounter with the ghostly Yusuke awakened untapped psychic powers within him.

YU YU HAKUSHO VOLUME 4 TRAINING DAY

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MORTAL MANEUVERS IN THE DARK!!



OKAY, THE FOURTH TEST WILL INVOLVE **ACTUAL COMBAT!!**

YOU'LL FACE OFF TWO BY TWO UNTIL ONLY **ONE** OF YOU IS LEFT!

HERE'S THE BATTLE ARENA!

HUH?
IT'S
PITCH
BLACK
IN HERE!

HOW
DO WE SEE,
LET ALONE
FIGHT?

YOU MAY
USE ANY
TECHNIQUES OR
WEAPONS YOU WISH.
THE ONLY RULE IS TO
DEFEAT YOUR
OPPONENT AND
RETURN HERE!

THIS
ROUND
TESTS NOT
WHAT YOU SEE,
BUT WHAT YOU
FEEL.

...SOMETHIN'
I'VE SENSED
SINCE WE LEFT
THE FOREST.

NO, IT'S A
FEELING...
A **BAD** FEELING.
SOMETHIN'S
WRONG...

IS
GOING
ONE-ON-ONE
FREAKIN' YOU
OUT?

CAT
GOT YOUR
TONGUE,
KUWABARA?

...RANDO'S HERE, SOMEWHERE, AND HE'S AFTER THE MASTER'S TECHNIQUES.

DANG, I KEEP FOR-GETTING ...

IT'S LIKE... LIKE SOME SAVAGE BEAST OR MONSTER'S LURKING NEARBY.

YEAH... PROBABLY.

IS THIS FEELING COMING FROM ONE OF THE OTHER GUYS?

...BUT I CAN SMELL IT, Y'KNOW? LIKE... LIKE...

I CAN'T TELL WHICH ONE, THOUGH. THERE'S NUTHIN' OBVIOUS...

HMM...

LET'S DETERMINE THE MATCHUPS.

CLOSE ENOUGH, YEAH.

LIKE A SILENT FART IN A CROWDED ELEVATOR?

GO 'ROUND AND INTRODUCE YOURSELVES.

COME TO THINK OF IT, I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAMES.

I'M SHAOLIN. I'M TRAINING AS I TRAVEL THE COUNTRY.

SPIRITUALIST
(IN TRAINING)
1ST DAN IN KUNG-FU

MY NAME IS MUSASHI. I EXTERMINATE DEMONS.

SPIRITUALIST
4TH DAN IN KENDO,
MASTER OF THE
QUICK SWORD DRAW

KAZE-MARU! I'M ONE OF THE LAST NINJAS.

VIP BODYGUARD
EXPERT IN MODERN
NINJUTSU

MY NAME IS CHINPO.

MYSTERY MAN
OF CHINA

I'M KIBANO. I'M CHALLENGING MY OWN LIMITS.

MARTIAL ARTIST
EXPERT IN VARIOUS
DISCIPLINES

The symbol on Kaze-Maru's forehead is a **manji**, which reflects ancient Buddhist traditions.

ASSASSIN
SKILLED WITH
THE KNIFE

I'M KURODA.

NO.1 FIGHTER,
SARAYASHIKI JR. HIGH
HIGHLY PROFICIENT
IN STREET BRAWLS

YUSUKE URAMESHI! ULTRA PUNK!!

KAZUMA KUWABARA! PUNK!!

NO.2 FIGHTER,
SARAYASHIKI JR. HIGH
DELINQUENT
WITH SIXTH SENSE

SHAOLIN

CHINPO

MUSASHI

KUWABARA

KIBANO

URAMESHI

KAZE-MARU

KURODA

THE PAIRINGS AS DECIDED BY LOT!!

HE WHO WALKS OUT FROM THE DARKNESS IS THE VICTOR!!

...

IN MY JOB, ONE'S OPPONENT **MUST** BE KILLED.

I NOTE MY FIRST MATCH IS WITH A **BUSINESS RIVAL.**

ONE QUESTION.

ALL RIGHT. ONE MORE THING, THEN...

YOU WOULDN'T REFUSE TO TEACH AN **ASSASSIN**, WOULD YOU?

DID THE THIRD PHASE **NOT** ELIMINATE EVERYONE AVERSE TO KILLING OR BEING KILLED?

ALL OF YOU ARE TO FIGHT HOW YOU WILL.

...OR HIS AMBITIONS. GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU?

I'LL TEACH THE **ULTIMATE VICTOR**, NO MATTER HIS PROFESSION...

IF RANDO WINS... NO, I **CAN'T** LET THAT HAPPEN!

THIS HAG IS **INSANE.**

...

GOOD ENOUGH. THANK YOU.

FIRST MATCH: **KURODA VS. KAZE-MARU!**

TUP
TUP
TUP
SAME HERE.
MY LIFE IS MY WORK.
SUH
SO ONLY ONE OF US WILL LEAVE THIS DARKNESS ALIVE.
THUD
KLANG
WHACK
POW
BAM
WHICH ONE HAS THE ADVANTAGE?
I HATE NOT BEING ABLE TO WATCH!
!!
YOU CAN SEE THEM?!
THE... ASSASSIN! HE HAS THE UPPER HAND!
FLASH

BOOM

GAAH...!

!!

KUWABARA

MMPH! DIDN'T THINK I'D HAVE TO PLAY MY **ACE** IN MY FIRST **MATCH.**

VICTOR: **KAZEMARU!!**

A **REIGUN?!**

BUT MINE'S NOT **NEARLY** THAT POWERFUL!!

SO IT **WAS** A REIGUN?

THAT'S WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE...

AN AURA WEAPON OF SOME KIND...

WHAT **WAS** THAT?

LET'S JUST SAY I COULDN'T SIT THIS OUT.

BOTAN?! WHAT'RE YOU DOING -

PRETTY MUCH.

MATCHING YOUR REIGUN TO THAT IS LIKE PITTING A WATER PISTOL AGAINST A HOWITZER. AND HE'S GOT PLENTY IN RESERVE EVEN AFTER THAT LAST SHOT.

KAZE-MARU PROBABLY EMITS AURA FROM THE PALM OF HIS HAND.

I'M HIP.

BUT THE SELECTION PROCESS WILL REMAIN IM-PARTIAL.

SO KOENMA'S ROOTING FOR THIS COCKY LITTLE TOUGH? INTERESTING.

CAN'T BEAT HIM REIGUN FOR REIGUN, THEN.

WATCH THAT RIGHT HAND. IT MIGHT **GO OFF!**

THAT'S NOT SURPRISING. HE OUTSCORED HIS OPPONENT IN THE FIRST TESTS.

VICTOR: **SHAOLIN!**

WHOO! THAT WAS **CLOSE!**

THIRD MATCH:
KUWABARA
VS.
MUSASHI!!

Sodom

Iron Fist

HMPH!

GO SCREW YOURSELF, URAMESHI.

FWICK

DON'T TRIP OVER YOUR OWN FEET!!

LAST CHANCE TO WITHDRAW, KID!

I WILL NOT HOLD BACK. THIS WILL BE TO THE **DEATH.**

TUP

TUP

TUP

HUH?

THIS DARKNESS IS **NOTHING!** I CAN SEE YOU CLEARLY EVEN -

I'VE HAD MY SHARE OF FIGHTS, AND MY SIXTH SENSE IS REALLY SHARP.

I DON'T SCARE THAT EASY, DUDE.

WHUH?!

AH!! THERE YOU ARE!!

SUSH

WHAT?!

I'M PERFECTLY AWARE OF YOUR STRONG SIXTH SENSE.

BUT I HAVE TRAINED MYSELF TO **SUPPRESS** MY AURA.

THIS NEGATES YOUR ONE ADVANTAGE!!

HEY, KUWABARA! SOUNDS LIKE HE'S BEATIN' THE **CRAP** OUTTA YOU!

YOU ALWAYS **SAID** YOU WERE TOUGH - SO **SHOW** 'IM!!

GACK!

WHAM

BASH

GAH!

POW



LOOK TO YOUR **OWN** BATTLES! I'M DOIN' **FINE!!**

AWW, WHADDA **YOU** CARE, URAMESHI?

YOU DON'T KNOW **BRUTAL** UNTIL YOU'VE GONE A ROUND WITH **URAMESHI!**

THINK SO? HAH! I **SPIT** ON YOUR WIMPY PUNCHES, MAN.

PTUI

DOING FINE?

I'VE BEAT YOU **SILLY**, BOY. YOU CAN **BARELY** STAND.

AS KUWABARA'S DONE...REPEATEDLY.

GRR.

...!

A **WOODEN** SWORD?

YOU LEAVE ME **NO CHOICE**, THEN!!

IT WAS CARVED FROM A TREE OVER 1000 YEARS OLD AND POLISHED WITH HOLY WATER. A PROVEN **DEMONSLAYER**...

NOT JUST **ANY** WOODEN SWORD.

...GOOD FOR DEALING WITH **OTHER** ADVERSARIES, TOO.

!!

WHO IS IT!!!

HOW'S HE DO THAT?!

HE VANISHED AGAIN!

LIGHTNING DRAW SWORD!!

CRACK

MY SWORD... BROKEN!!

YOU ARE STURDY, BOY.

RRG...

!!

THUD

BUT MY NEXT BLOW WILL FINISH YOU.

YOU CAN STAND? AGAIN, YOU SURPRISE.

I... GUESS SO...

RRRRR

SUR

THAT FRAGMENT OF MY SWORD IS NO DEFENSE.

I... I GRABBED IT WITHOUT THINKING, BUT IT'S TRUE - IT WON'T DO ME ANY GOOD!!

URK!

YAA...

TIME TO DIE!

FLASH

HUH?!

HE HAS! THAT BOY'S GIFTED!

HE'S CREATED AN AURA SWORD!

-IT CAN'T BE!

CRACK

IT -

WAAH!

A SWORD... OF ENERGY...

BUT HOW... HOW DID I DO IT?!

BY GRASPING A HIGHLY CHARMED OBJECT,
THE BOY WAS able TO DRAW OUT ITS **TRUE POWER.**
AND HE'LL ONLY GET **STRONGER** WITH TIME.

HEH... NO KIDDING!

HE'S SHAPING UP INTO A SERIOUS CONTENDER!!

VICTOR: KUWABARA!!

DO THAT. I'LL BE **BACK!**

WIN YOURS. I'LL BE WAITING.

4TH MATCH!!

MY RAMBLING DIARY, PART 1

august '81

pinkish red hair



Tattoos of demons.

I hope those were stick-ons.

a Night I Freaked Out

I went to rent a video one night, and there was a real hard-core dude there. (It would've been scarier if he had been looking at teen idol concert videos.)

On my way back, at an intersection called Four Corners, a car beeped at another dude on a bicycle, who had run a red.

This dude chased the car out to the middle of the intersection and started bashing its side. (A lot of cars were driving through, but he didn't care.)

The driver didn't expect him to come chasing after him, so he was freaked.



DOOM

THE
4TH MATCH:
URAMESHI
VS.
KIBANO!

KUWABARA

ADVANCED TO THE SEMIFINALS AFTER BEATING MUSASHI WITH A NEWLY DISCOVERED TALENT: HIS AURA SWORD.

YUSUKE URAMESHI

NO.1 FIGHTER IN SARAYASHIKI JR. HIGH. CAN PUNCH OUT THE BEST OF THEM. ALSO WIELDS THE REIGUN.

SHAOLIN

DEFEATED THE MYSTERIOUS CHINESE CONTENDER WITH ALL-AROUND SUPERIOR SKILLS (PRESUMABLY).

KIBANO

MARTIAL ARTIST.
EXPERT IN MANY TECHNIQUES
AND DISCIPLINES.

KAZE-MARU

ONE OF THE LAST NINJAS.
DEFEATED ASSASSIN KURODA
WITH AN AURA BLAST.

HOLD UP ONE SECOND!

TRUP

RUMMAGE RUMMAGE

CHANGE YOUR MIND?

HEH.

KA-WHAP

A QUICK DRAG BEFORE THE BATTLE...

SHWIP!

Cupid

Super heavy

LEGGO! IT'S MY LAST PACK!

...YOU CAN GO **WILD.** GIMME!

YOU **BET!** KEIKO'S NOT HERE, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN...

THAT **HURT!**

OH! HEH! SURE!

I'D LIKE TO GET STARTED...

WE CAN'T **SEE** EACH OTHER.

WHOO BOY! IT REALLY IS **PITCH BLACK** IN HERE.

READY? LET'S GO.

RIGHT WITH YOU.

I KNOW YOUR POSITION PRECISELY.

I DON'T FIND THAT A PROBLEM.

!

HUH?! H-HOW...?

YOU STEPPED TO THE RIGHT.

HIS SIXTH SENSE DIDN'T MEASURE UP TO KUWABARA'S.

SHUF

HE'S BLUFFING.

HEH HEH.

AND **WHY'S** HE WEARING THAT **WEIRD MASK?!**

WHAT'S THAT GUY **UP TO?**

WITHOUT IT, I CAN SENSE MY OPPONENT IN OTHER WAYS - MORE **ACCURATE** WAYS.

I'M TRAINED TO FIGHT WITHOUT THE NEED OF SIGHT.

...EMANATING FROM YOUR BODY. YOU'RE ABLAZE!

A FIERCE FIGHTING SPIRIT SWIRLS AROUND YOU...

I SENSE **YOU'VE** BEEN THROUGH A LOT.

AND THAT ENABLES ME TO **ZERO** IN ON YOU.

AHA!!

WHOOSH

SHOOP

YEOW!

JEEPS! RIGHT ON THE CHIN!!

THUP

NICE RECOVERY, KID.

ACK

UNH...!

YOW!

CRUMP

!!

SPRING

YAH!

FFT

SENSE THIS, JERK!!

MAN!

WHERE'D HE GO?!

CREAK...

CLUMSY!
I GOT
YOU!

AH
HA!!

DASH

WHAM

WHAM!

!!

SOUNDS MAY HINT AT MY LOCATION...

FFT

...BUT THEY CAN'T TELL YOU PRECISELY WHERE TO AIM.

URRGG...

...!!

THAT **MASK** IS ALSO A **HELMET!**

URA-MESHI'S **SCREWED!**

YUSUKE'S A RANK BEGINNER COMPARED TO HIS OPPONENT'S LEVEL OF TRAINING. HE'LL HAVE TO **OUTWIT** HIM... A PROSPECT THAT **DOESN'T** FILL ME WITH HOPE!

KAAH...

TIME TO WRAP THIS UP...

YIKES!!

FUH HUMPH...

FSHH

RRR

HIS ARM'S... GROWING!!

BY BRINGING THE AURA THAT FLOWS OUTSIDE MY BODY INSIDE, I DOUBLE MY OFFENSIVE POWER!

KA

YOICKS!!

WHAM

SUPERCHARGED EXPLOSIVE THRUST!!

YOUR REFLEXES AND RESILIENCE ARE IMPRESSIVE.

I MEANT THAT TO BE A CRITICAL HIT.

HACK!

UNH...

BUT YOU'VE SUSTAINED PUNISHMENT.

THE AURA OF YOUR FIGHTING SPIRIT IS DIMMING.

UNWURF

YEAH...

...HIS AURA DRAWING IN! NOT WISE TO CORNER THIS ONE, I THINK...

WHAT I SEE IS...

THERE **MUST** BE A WAY TO PINPOINT HIS POSITION.

EVEN HIS GLANCING BLOWS ARE **MURDEROUS!** I JUST CAN'T DODGE WHAT I CAN'T **SEE!**

SINGLE-PANEL CHARACTERS

LENA, THE ANGEL OF DEATH
FRIEND OF BOTAN

NOTHING THRILLS HER MORE THAN TO SPOT A HOT GUY AND TELL HIM HE'S GOING TO DIE.

YOU'RE GONNA BUY IT **NEXT MONTH!**

Death

THERE IS!

AH!

LAST CHANCE! YOU MAY LIVE...

YOU CAN'T HOPE TO WIN! YOU'RE TOO BADLY HURT!

FSH!!

...IF YOU **STAY** DOWN!!

POW

UNH!

GOTCHA!!

GLA

?!

FULL OF SURPRISES, AREN'T YOU? NICE MOVE.

NOT THAT IT'LL AMOUNT TO MUCH.

I'LL PAY BACK THAT BLOW WITH INTEREST!

WANT A BROKEN ARM?

WHIRLWIND KILL THROW!!

YAAAH!

WHUMP

THUD

BUT HE HAS JUST ONE SHOT - HE **HAS** TO KNOW JUST **WHERE** TO AIM!!

NOT QUITE! HE STILL HAS THE **REIGUN!**

C'MON, URAMESHI, YOU SLOUCH!

HE CAN'T **SIDESTEP** AN ATTACK, AND IF HE TRIES TO **GRAPPLE** HE GETS **TOSSED!!**

HE'S AT THAT GUY'S **MERCY!!**

YOU HAVE ABILITY, BUT YOUR LIMITATIONS GIVE YOU A SNOWBALL'S CHANCE IN HELL AGAINST ME.

POP

DO YOU FEEL MORE AMENABLE TO GIVING UP NOW?

YOU THINK I'M READY... TO GIVE UP? HAH! I'LL **WIN** THIS!!

YOUR NEXT ATTACK WILL BE YOUR LAST... I **GUARANTEE!!**

I'LL BE AMAZED IF HE STILL HAS THE STRENGTH TO STAND.

WANT ME TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE?

YOU SCARED?

YOU'VE FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT. THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH.

YOU MACHO IDIOT.

PUNK...

GRIND

WHIRR

I'LL OBLIGE YOUR DEATH WISH.

RRK

FINE.

WHATEVER TRICK HE THINKS HE HAS UP HIS SLEEVE WON'T BE ANY GOOD AGAINST WHAT HE CAN'T SEE!!

FFFT

CRASH

GOODBYE, BRAT!!

SO LONG YOURSELF!!

YUSUKE!!

GAAH!!

BEFORE YOU PASS OUT, CHECK YOUR BELT.

...DID YOU KNOW WHERE TO AIM?!

H-HOW...

I PLANTED IT WHEN WE GRAPPLED.

WITH YOUR MASK AND THAT THICK GI,* YOU NEVER NOTICED.

WHAT?! A LIT CIGARETTE?

HOW'D THAT GET THERE?!

SISSS

*literally "clothes," often used to refer to a martial arts uniform.

...DARN IT...

KA

THUD

DUH...

NUTHIN' TO BE PROUD OF, PAL.

I OWE MY VICTORY TO SPEED IN LIGHTING UP AND MOVES THAT'D BE THE ENVY OF ANY PICKPOCKET.

YOU SNEAKY WEASEL.

VICTOR: URAMESHI!!

CHECK IT, GUYS: EVEN VICES CAN COME IN HANDY.

THE SEMI-FINALS COMMENCE IMMEDIATELY!!

FIRST MATCH: KAZE-MARU VS. URAMESHI!!

GOH

GREAT! I'M SICK OF STANDING AROUND!

WHAT?!

KAZE-MARU IS A NINJA!

RUMBLE

...

COME ON. WE'RE CHANGING LOCALES.

THE ORDER OF THE MATCHES IS SET. TOUGH BREAK, KID!

BUT I JUST FINISHED A MATCH!

KAZE-MARU-NINJA!

HUFF -
HUFF -

...THIS KAZE-MARU COULD BE **RANDO!**

YEAH, AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF...

I DON'T GIVE MYSELF GOOD ODDS FOR THIS ROUND.

SWELL! MY REI GUN'S USED UP AND I'M A MASS OF BRUISES.

!

HERE WE ARE.

SHEESH... TWO LEFT BESIDES KUWABARA AND ME. I WONDER...

WHOOSH

A SWAMP!!

HERE IS WHERE YOUR POWERS MAY REACH FULL FLOWER.

ANCIENT BATTLES WERE FOUGHT HERE. THERE IS NO MORE **SPIRITUAL** A SPOT ON THIS MOUNTAIN.

UM... ANYTHING?

I FEEL POWER **SURGING** WITHIN ME.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

...BUT NOT NEAR ENOUGH FOR A DECENT SHOT!

YEAH, I'M GETTING SOME STRENGTH BACK...

...I'M COOKED!!

AND IF HE'S RANDO, WITH POWERS HE HASN'T SHOWN YET...

BEGIN!!

SHSSK

I'LL ONLY PREVAIL IF I NAIL HIM WITH ONE COUNTER PUNCH!!

CLENCH

BUT IN THE REAL WORLD, YOU MUST PLAY THE CARDS' LUCK AND LET CHANCE DEAL OUT.

WITH ENOUGH SPIRITUAL STRENGTH, YOU MAY PREVAIL.

YOU'VE DRAWN A BAD HAND. I SYMPATHIZE.

...BUT IT SEEMS YOUR ENERGY'S SPENT.

SCRUB

INTER-ESTING TO FIND ANOTHER WHO CAN EMIT REIKI, AS I CAN...

URG!! STUCK!!

!!

...WITH MY BARE HANDS!!

SQUISH

BOOSH

I COULD DEFEAT YOU NOW...

PUM PAM PUM POW

RAR RAR RAR RAH!

GUH...!

...

KWSH

KWSH

I'LL MAKE IT QUICK!!

CRIPES!! HE'S TOO BEAT TO STRIKE BACK OR DODGE!!

THUD

NOW!!

NICE

SNIKT

WHIFF

UFF!

!!

AHH!
I MISSED!!

KWKUSH

YOU'RE NOT AS SPENT AS I THOUGHT!

I'LL HAVE TO STAY OUT OF YOUR REACH...

!!

THROW-ING STARS...?

...AND TAKE YOU OUT BY OTHER MEANS.

GRRR

HAH!

I MAY BE IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE...

?!

...BUT I CAN STILL DODGE THESE THINGS!

WHRR

...

WHIRR...

OR ARE YOU JUST GONNA STAND THERE -

YOU GOT ANYTHING ELSE, PAL?

SHK

WHIRR...

WHOOSH

!!

YAAAH!!

WHIRR WHIRR

!!

SLASH

THEY'RE COMING BACK AROUND! LIKE THEY HAVE MINDS OF THEIR OWN!

YEOWCH!

SHING

SHING

SHING

REIKI-SEEKING THROWING STARS, MY FRIEND! YOU CAN'T ESCAPE THEM!

THEY'LL KEEP COMING UNTIL THEY HIT YOU!!

SLAM

UNH!

CLOP

AAAAH!

Boom

OH,
YES.
THEY ALSO
EXPLODE WHEN
THEY HIT!

DODGING
IS INEF-
FECTIVE! A
NEAR MISS
WILL GET
YOU!

YOU'RE
OUT OF
OPTIONS!!

RRRG

RRG...

URF!

THUD

I...
I THINK
THIS
IS IT.

WHANG
WHANG
WHANG
WHANG

STAGGER

THIS IS
BAD...
ONE MORE
OF THOSE
AND I'M
TOAST.

OH,
MAN...

Happy New Year!

Best Wishes
for the
next year!
Meep!



BUT IF THIS
GUY'S RANDO...



...I CAN'T JUST
STAND HERE...

KUWA-
BARA...

GLANCE

THIS
SUCKS,
BUT...

?!

...THE
REST IS
UP TO
YOU!

SPLISH
SPLISH
SPLISH

POP

SH

A
KAMI-
KAZE
ATTACK,
EH?

STRAIGHT
INTO MY
REIKI
BLAST!!

HE'S CHAR-
GING
KAZE-
MARU!

!!

IF I GO DOWN, YOU GO DOWN!!

STRAIGHT INTO WHATEVER YOU'VE GOT!!

FOOL! YOU'LL NEVER GET NEAR ME!!

TAKE THIS!!

SPLUSH...!!

WHAT? WHERE'D HE GO?!

?!

HE VANISHED! IMPOSSIBLE!

HEY! WHOA...!

WHIRRR!

NO!

KUWABARA

...DON'T GET IT!

I JUST...

GLUB...

HEY, DOWN THERE...

GLUB BLUB

KUWH

THUMP

HOLY CHEESE! IT'S TRUE!

URAMESHI'S DISAP-PEARED!!

STILL, DID IT...

...TURN OUT TO BE THE **RIGHT MOVE** ANYWAY?

WHO WAS **HIDING?!** KOFF! I **FELL IN!**

YOU HID IN A **BOG?!** TALK ABOUT DESPERATE!!

I...

I CAN'T... BELIEVE IT... UUH...

SAME HERE!

IT WOULD SEEM SO. YOUR SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE THREW KAZE-MARU OFF HIS TIMING.

ACCIDENTAL AS IT WAS, IT'S STILL YOUR VICTORY. LADY LUCK SMILED ON YOU THIS TIME, URAMESHI.

!

THEN THE ONLY ONE IT **COULD** BE IS...

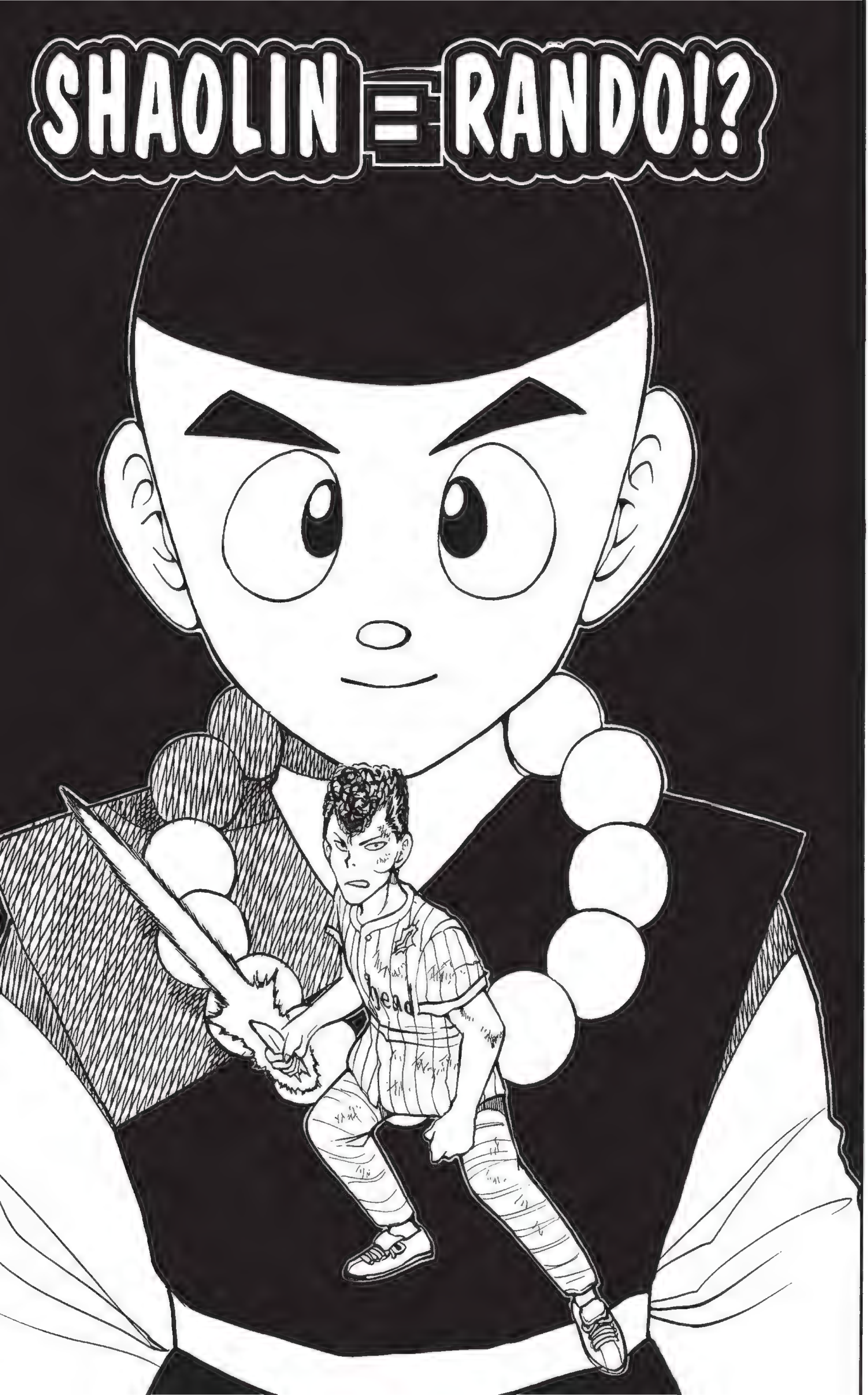
HE'S NOT RANDO, THAT'S CERTAIN. NOW THAT HE'S OUT COLD...

...I DETECT NO SUBCONSCIOUS DEMONIC AURA FROM HIM.

PREPARE FOR THE SECOND SEMI-FINALS MATCH!!

HEH, PIECE O' CAKE.

SHAOLIN = RANDO!?



THAT LITTLE DUDE...?

I WOULDN'T HAVE GUESSED IT!

SEMI-FINALS MATCH 2!!

I'LL PUT THIS SHRIMPBOAT AWAY, THEN IT'S DOWN TO ME AND URAMESHI!

KUWABARA, LISTEN -

WAIT A SECOND!

THAT WASN'T... I MEAN, WELL...

WHAT? YOU GONNA CHEER ME ON? DON'T BOTHER.

REMEMBER, WE'RE **UNDERCOVER!**

NO, YUSUKE! DON'T REVEAL CLASSIFIED INFORMATION!

OH YEAH.

JUST SIT TIGHT. I'LL GET TO YOU NEXT, DON'T WORRY.

YOUR ADVICE? YOU WON THROUGH DUMB LUCK, PUNK! AND YOU STILL GOT BEAT UP SO BAD YOU CAN BARELY STAND!

URR

MY ADVICE? FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, THROW THE MATCH!

...DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THIS GUY, THAT'S ALL.

HOPE YOUR LIFE INSURANCE'S PAID UP, PAL!

FINE THEN! **GET** YOURSELF KILLED! SEE IF I CARE!

...

JEEZ LOUISE, WOULD YOU GUYS **KNOCK IT OFF?!**

SHK

BEGIN!!

MAY THE BEST MAN WIN.

BEST DEFENSE IS A GOOD OFFENSE!!

DASH

OH

UNH!

HUH?

...

YOU'RE **STRONGER** THAN THE NUMBERS INDICATED.

OWW...

RRG

I'D BETTER GET **SERIOUS**, THEN...

THIS GUY'S A WUSS.

SHEE, I BARELY WHIFFED HIM.

DAH!!

Iron Fist

Head

TAH!

HIYA!!

YAH!
HAH!!

WHOCK

KUWABARA

HMPH!!

...

HMM.

'CAUSE IF IT IS, HE AIN'T LIVIN' UP TO HIS NOTICES.

ARE YOU **SURE** THAT'S RANDO?

MAYBE HE GOT BEAT UP AND ROBBED OF **HIS** POWER.

SO, WHO'S GETTING THE BETTER OF WHO?

OWWW.

UH OH!
HIS AURA'S
CHANGING!

...TIME
TO PLAY
MY ACE.

OKAY...

FOOMF

GACK!!
FIRE?!

FIERY
PALMS!!
TAH!

WOOO

HOT HOT HOT!

C'MON, MORON, YOU'RE NOT A RABBIT!!

THE FIRE'S GOT HIM HOPPIN' AROUND!

WHOA!

WHOOM

FINE, THEN. SINCE I'M AT THE PLATE...

GONNA PITCH THAT KINDA STUFF AT ME, EH?

HAH!!

LEADOFF HITTER SWORD!

TAH!

CRACK

KA

WHAM

YOUR FIREBALL PITCHES AIN'T NUTHIN' TO A 120 KM/H HITTER, BABY!!

URRGH!

HOO HAH! INFIELD DRIVE!

DEFENSE AND OFFENSE IN ONE FIGHTING STYLE!!

WOW!! NO DODGING! YOU HIT THAT STRAIGHT BACK!!

EVEN IF HE IS RANDO, SHAOLIN COULD BE IN TROUBLE!!

KUWA-BARA'S GETTING MORE POWERFUL BY THE MINUTE!!

COULD HE BE RIGHT?

FLATTERY 'LL GET YOU NOWHERE. GIVE UP!!

HEH.

NOT JUST YET...

WHAT'S WITH ALL THE BUDDHIST JAZZ?

HE SAYIN' HIS PRAYERS BEFORE I FLATTEN HIM?!

KUWA

THE BEST VOODOO CHARMERS AND MARTIAL ARTISTS I KNOW HAVE SPENT **DECADES** MASTERING THOSE TECHNIQUES.

...AND THE FLAMING PALMS...

HUH?

THAT SPELL...

?

SO THAT **IS** RANDO?

!!

I'VE HEARD THAT RECENTLY SOME WERE VICTIMS OF A DEMON WHO'S **STOLEN** THEIR SECRETS.

IF YOU WON'T MAKE A MOVE, I WILL!!

HUH?!

DASH

KUWABARA

GACK!!

KUWABARA

YAAH!

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

RUSTLE

WHERE'D THESE BUSHES COME FROM?

HUH?!

THUD

HE'S BECOME -

- A GIANT!

SNUFFLE SNIFF

!!!

!!

DID HE GROW, OR DID I...?

WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

OHMI-GOSH!!

GET IT NOW, TOM THUMB? I DIDN'T GROW - YOU SHRANK!

ACK!

SQUEEZE

...NO BIGGER THAN A DOLL!!

GAH...

OOG

K- KUWABARA'S...

PLEASE DON'T SPOIL MY FUN.

KUWABARA! THROW IN THE TOWEL! YOU'VE LOST!!

SHAOLIN CAN CRUSH HIM AT WILL!

GUUH...

UNH!

I'D LIKE HIM TO SUFFER A LITTLE... BEFORE THE END.

GRIP

KUWABARA!!

!!

WHAT IF I TOOK YOUR RIGHT ARM LIKE THIS...

KUWABARA

CRACKLE

!!!

D-
DON'T—

AAAH!

WAR

HA HA! BRITTLE AS A MATCHSTICK, EH?

NOW, IF I JUST WENT AHEAD AND SQUEEZED REAL HARD...

GASP!

AAH!

HURK!

HEAR THAT? I WON! HA HA HA!

CRUNCH

THAT'S ENOUGH!! VICTOR: SHAOLIN!

MMM...

HEY WOMAN, IT'S OVER! CALL IT!!

KUWABARA!!

HEH

YOU SCUM-BALL!!

HERE!!

I'M DONE WITH HIM, SO...

!!

FLING

GUESS YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE HIM BACK TO NORMAL SIZE.

WELL, WHY NOT?

AH, THE THRILL OF VICTORY.

HA HA HA! GOT SOME REAL **SPEED** ON THAT PITCH!

K-KUWA-BARA!!

OH... MAN!!

BOTH HIS ARMS ARE SHATTERED. HIS LEFT LEG AND RIBS, TOO...

Moter head

LEAVES ME VULNERABLE WHILE I CONJURE IT, AND IT DOESN'T REALLY MAKE ME MORE POWERFUL. ALL IN ALL, NOT VERY PRACTICAL.

I'D BEEN WANTING TO TRY THAT SPELL FOR A WHILE, BUT IT'S A LENGTHY AND COMPLICATED INCANTATION.

IT'S BAD... THOSE ARMS MAY NEVER HEAL PROPERLY...

ONE LITTLE PHRASE, AND I COULD **BLOW** A HUMAN TO **SMITHEREENS.**

MASTER GENKAI'S TECHNIQUES, THOUGH, ARE ANOTHER MATTER. THEY REQUIRE FEW WORDS, BUT CREATE **DEVASTATING** RESULTS.

HEY.

IN YOUR DREAMS.

SHSCK

THAT WOULD BE SO, IN EVIL HANDS.

...

I'M JUST ITCHING TO TRY ALL THAT STUFF OUT!

YOU GUYS DON'T KNOW HOW EXCITED I AM ABOUT THIS!

COOL.

WOW, I'VE NEVER SEEN AN AURA SO FIRED UP WITH BLOODLUST.

?!

YOU'RE DEAD, RANDO! DEAD!!

My Rambling Diary, Part 2

'91
9/26

Hanshin Tigers: 5 Consecutive Wins!!

The pitcher dominated the competition 5 games in a row. This winning streak will probably continue... NO! It will definitely continue!

I want to assert here that if this season goes to a full 200 games, the Tigers will be the champions - 100%.

BOOM!

(Following a baseball team with absolute loyalty requires the same kind of brain structure a cartoonist needs to draw a comic every single week. I once witnessed a celebrity fan of the Yomiuri Giants during their disastrous game against the Chunichi Dragons. The celebrity watched with sad and angry eyes all the way to the ninth inning. When your favorite team is losing, that's when you have to look at them with warm and affectionate eyes.)

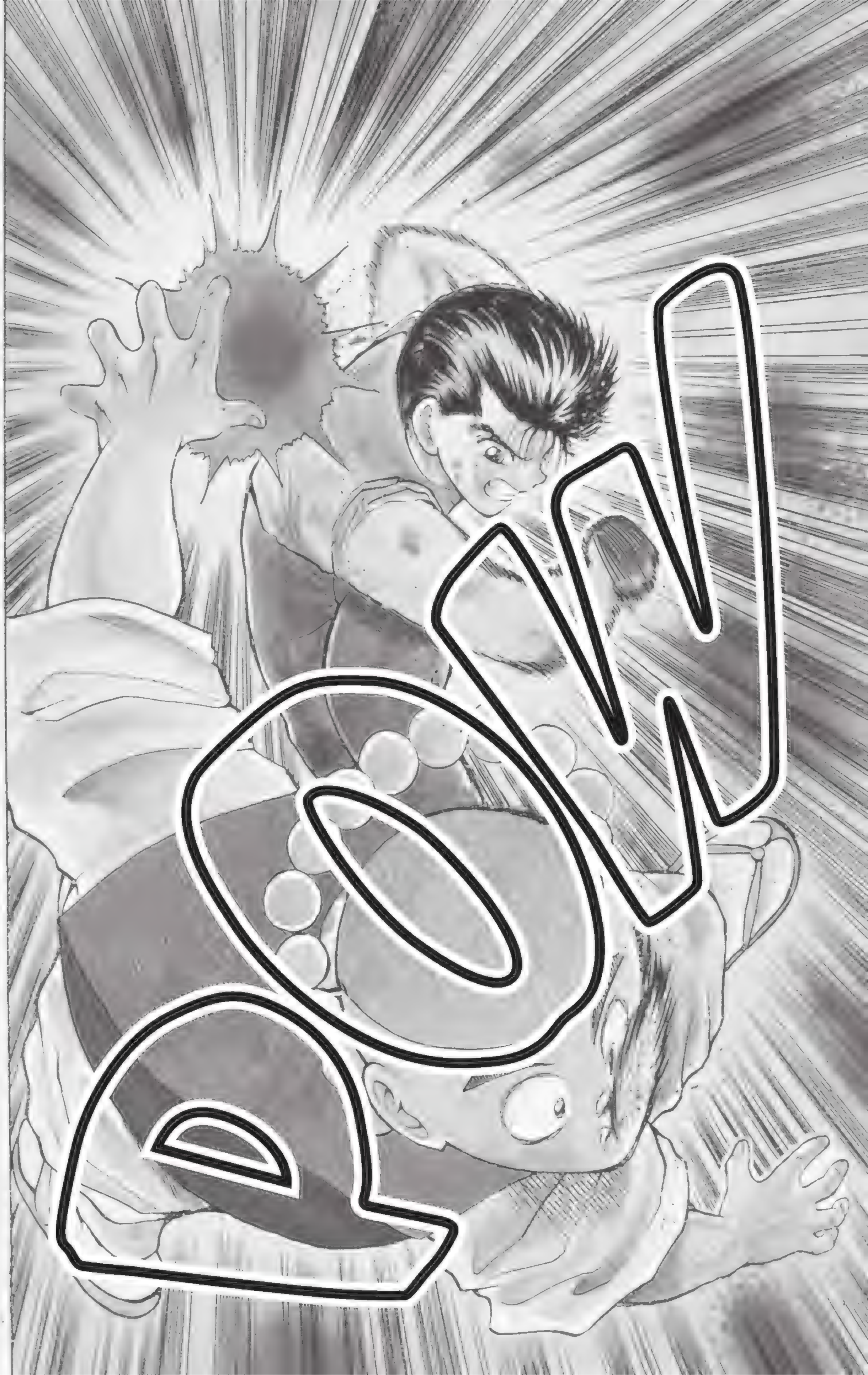
THE RAGING FIST!!

RANDO!! YOU MONSTER!!

THERE WAS NO REASON TO DO THAT TO KUWABARA!!

Motorhead

WHAM



THUD

YOU'RE GOIN' DOWN, RANDO - FOR THAT...

...AND FOR THE 99 PEOPLE YOU'VE KILLED!

THE RAGING FIST!!



MUMPH...!!

UNH...

PP

QUAKE

QUAKER

HUH?!

GRAAH!

HA

...

GET UP!

HE PUNCHED UP A SCORE OF 155, BUT IN COMBAT I'D SAY HE EASILY TOPS 200...

BLUCK... WHOO.

HAAH!!

AND THAT'S JUST FOR STARTERS!

SLICING GALE AEGIS!!

GRRR

!?

THEY'RE **BUZZSAWS OF AIR,** COMING AT YOU FROM **ALL SIDES!!**

I'VE WHIPPED UP **SUPERSONIC VORTICES** ALL AROUND!

WHOOOO

HE'LL BE **HAMBURGER** IF HE CHARGES STRAIGHT INTO THEM!!

RAAH!

WHAT?!

HE'S LEAPING OVER THEM?!

SPR

BY DIVING IN **HEAD FIRST,** HE'S AVOIDING THE **WORST EFFECTS** OF THE VORTICES!!


NAM

GOTCHA, PUNK.

HEH HEH...

REPENT YOUR CRIMES IN HELL.

DON'T WORRY! YOU NAILED HIM WITH ONE **SMASHING BLOW!**

YOU'VE **AVENGED** KUWABARA'S DEMISE IN STYLE!!

I'M DONE, MAN... SHOT, FINISHED, KAPUT.

RRRRG

UH...HE'S STILL ALIVE.

GOOD GOSH, YOU ARE KAPUT!

WHOA...

WHOO...

STAGGER

IF SHAOLIN IS RANDO...

...THEN HE'S JUST GETTING WARMED UP.

HUH?

HOLD ON, KID. IT'S NOT OVER. NOT BY A LONG SHOT.

HA HA HA!

HEH...

RUKIA

...SINCE I LAST FOUGHT A HUMAN IN THE CLEAR, AS RANDO?

LET'S SEE... HOW MANY DECADES HAS IT BEEN...

I MUST CAREFULLY CONSIDER HOW THIS ONE IS TO SUFFER AND DIE.

I LIKE IT. IT'S EXCITING.

FWAP

...BY ANYONE LESS THAN GENKAI, THAT'S FOR SURE.

I DIDN'T EXPECT TO BE UN-MASKED...

CRICK

CRACK

AFTER ALL, I'D LIKE TO HAVE SOME FUN WITH THIS.

HE... HE CHANGED!!

AND THAT AIN'T JUST ANY RUN-OF-THE-MILL DEMONIC AURA SURROUNDING HIM!!

STAGGER

UNH...

SHK

SHK

WOW!
SO THAT'S
RANDO..!!

ANYTHING
WRONG?
YOU'RE
LOOKING A
LITTLE PALE.

BAM-BAM-BAM-BAM

YOU SHUT
YER YAP!

TAKE
THIS AND
THIS AND
THIS!!

UUGH...

I BARELY FELT THOSE PUNCHES. THEY HAD NO POWER.

YOU DONE? THAT WASN'T ANYTHING LIKE YOUR LAST ATTACK.

?!

THREADS... MADE OF AURA?!

SNAP SNAP SNAP

URK?!

AN ENTIRE **AURA WEB**, ACTUALLY.

I'M PROBABLY THE ONLY DEMON WHO CAN SPIN ONE.

!!

NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY, YOU CAN'T BREAK IT.

IT'S TOUGH STUFF.

THWAP

RRG...

I... I CAN'T MOVE!!

HERE, I'LL **SHOW** YOU!!

WAAAH!!

AGAIN!

GAH!

THUD

I COULD SWING AND SWING AND SWING ALL DAY...

SEE? WHAT DID I TELL YOU?

HE'S HELP-LESS...!

GOOD GOSH... HE CAN'T ESCAPE!

...BUT IT WOULD NEVER SNAP!

AGAIN!

SHUH SHUH

GUCK!

SAY, I'VE GOT AN IDEA.

SHUH SHUH SHUH

CREAK

THERE! HOW'S **THAT** FEEL, EH?

FIRST, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MY FRIENDS.

YOU'VE GOT ME, SO WHY DON'T YOU KILL ME?!

UNH!! WHAT SADISTIC TRICK IS THIS?!

?!

BLUBBLUBBLE

FACKER

GACK!! WHAT'RE THOSE THINGS?!

BARF

GRAWKLE GRAWL GNASH

BLOOD

THEY ALSO HAVE BIG APPETITES.

FLING

FISH SUMMONED FROM THE DEMON PLANE. CUTE, HUH?

SPLICH

GREEEK GROWR

SKREEK!

SPLAT

HUMAN FLESH IS A SPECIAL TREAT FOR THEM.

TH-THAT POSE!

BRR

AIRA

!!

SPLIK

ZZZZ

HE'S SEEN THE REI GUN JUST ONCE, YET HE'S FIGURED OUT HOW—

YES... THAT ONE'S A QUICK STUDY, ALL RIGHT.

MM... LOVE THAT EXPRESSION.

...

LOVE THE SCREAMS HUMANS MAKE WHEN THEY GET EATEN ALIVE, TOO.

HE HAS THE POTENTIAL TO **SURPASS** ME...

...BUT AS AN **EVIL** MASTER.

ZIP

MAKE IT **GOOD**, KID.

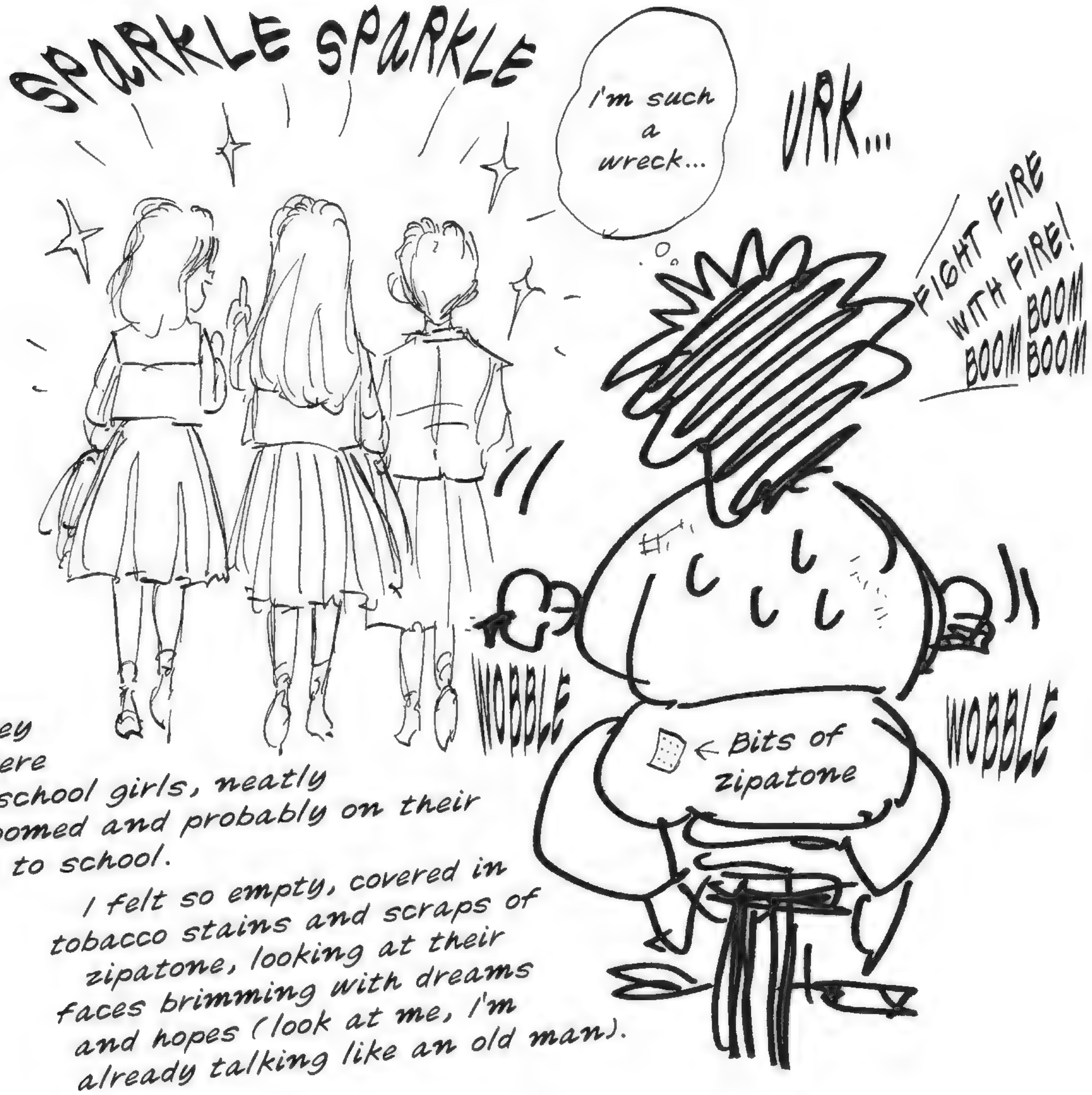
WAAAH!

YAAH!!

MY RAMBLING DIARY, PART 3

one morning, same as usual, '91

I went out from sheer hunger, exhausted after an all-nighter. I teetered on my bicycle, listening to some random Metallica on my walkman. On the way to Matsuya to grab a bite to eat, I ran into some people who really make me hate myself. They are...



They were school girls, neatly groomed and probably on their way to school.

I felt so empty, covered in tobacco stains and scraps of zipatone, looking at their faces brimming with dreams and hopes (look at me, I'm already talking like an old man).

GENKAI'S SUCCESOR IS CHOSEN!!

ATTAK

YUSUKE!!

KRAAAAN!

WAAAH!

WHO DUMPED INTO A SLIMY POND TO BE EATEN BY A SCHOOL OF UGLY **DEMON FISH!** WHAT A **STUPID** WAY TO DIE!

I'M DONE FOR!!

OOH!

SPLASH

NOW LET'S HAVE A BEAUTIFUL **FOUNTAIN OF BLOOD** AND A HEARTY SET OF **BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAMS!!**

THEY SAY YOU RELIVE THE BEST MOMENTS OF YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO DIE, BUT ALL I REMEMBER ARE AGGRAVATIONS! I SHOULD'VE **GRABBED** FOR MORE **GUSTO!**

HMM...

MASTER!! YUSUKE'S GOING TO DIE...!!

YUSUKE!!

HMPH... NOTHING. OH, WELL, ONCE HIS BONES FLOAT TO THE SURFACE...

...MASTER GENKAI'S SECRETS ARE MINE.

BLAM

...

ZWUS

HYO

GRAWK GRAWK!

THIS IS IT!! GAME OVER!!

GIVING UP **ALREADY,** URAMESHI? THAT'S **PATHETIC!**

?!

THAT **VOICE!** IT'S...

Mater Head

...KUWABARA?!

ONCE I'M BETTER
I'LL GO AFTER THAT KID
AND STOMP HIS BUTT-
IF NOT THE FIRST TIME,
THEN THE NEXT,
OR THE **NEXT!!**

TO THINK I'VE
BEEN **OBSESSED**
ALL THIS TIME WITH
CLOBBERING A WHINY
LITTLE **QUITTER**
LIKE YOU!

WHILE YOU
BECOME AN
INADEQUATE
AND
DEJECTED...

!

...PILE OF
FISH CRAP!
JUST THE END
FOR A **LOSER**
DIPSTICK
LIKE YOU!

HA HA HA HA

OH..
YEAH?!

RAAH!

RRRG!!

GRUK?!

SHUT
YOUR
FACE!!

?!

...HEH... SEE, DUMMY... YOU CAN DO IT...

HUH?

...HEH...

SPLASH

CRACKLE

COULD'VE SWORN I SAW A HUGE DISCHARGE OF AURA.

WHAT WAS THAT...?

IT COULDN'T BE...

...MAYBE HE **HAS** MANAGED TO FREE HIMSELF.

..BUT **SOMETHING** BLEW THESE DEMON FISH OUT OF THE WATER.

BUT THE MOMENT HE FLOATS TO THE SURFACE WILL BE HIS LAST.

IF HE **DID** SUMMON THIS EXPLOSIVE BURST OF POWER...

DID HE BREAK OUT OF MY WEB?

COME ON...
COME ON...

DID HE SUCCUMB TO HIS OWN LAST EFFORT...?

YUSUKE...

HAH! GOTCHA!!

BLUB

HAH! GOTCHA BACK!!

IMPOSSIBLE! HOW DID YOU GET **BEHIND** ME?!

RANDO

POND

TURNS OUT THAT POND HAS A CHANNEL AT THE BOTTOM! IT CONNECTS TO THE BOG I FELL IN WHILE FIGHTING KAZE-MARU!

AND IT'S ALL GOING INTO THIS!!

I'M ON MY LAST OUNCE OF STRENGTH!!

SMASH

SPLASH

WHOOSH

STAY DOWN THERE...

PLEASE DON'T SURFACE...

BLUB BLUB

!!

CAN'T EVEN... RAISE MY ARMS...

HURF... THAT'S IT, EVERYTHING I HAD...

SQUISH

SCHUFF

NUTS...!

ENCHANTED CAT.







I'LL RECITE THE INCANTATION...

...AND THEN... A FINAL BIT OF FUN!

KBBLE

...MY HEAD'S SPINNING.. DON'T UNDERSTAND A WORD HE'S SAYIN'...

HEH HEH.

WHROO

SCR

SHRINK AWAY, KID!

HEH HEH... IT'S DONE.

NOW, HOW TO **FINISH** YOU?

...AND THEN **SQUASH** YOU LIKE A **BUG!!**

PERHAPS I'LL **CRUSH** EVERY BONE IN YOUR BODY...

WHAT?!

AH!

?

RYJE

RYJE

BOOM

HOW'S IT POSSIBLE?!

N- NO...

WHAT IN THE WORLD...?!

?

THE CURSE SHRANK ME!!

YOU'VE BECOME TOO RELIANT ON YOUR SPELLS, RANDO.

I... FAILED?!

IMPOSSIBLE!! I PERFORMED THE INCANTATION PERFECTLY!!

YOU SUMMONED THIS ONE TOO OFTEN, WITHOUT ADEQUATE FOCUS.

CURSES ARE NOT DOCILE SERVANTS. MAKE THE SLIGHTEST ERROR IN THEIR CONJURING, AND THEY'LL TURN ON YOU.

COUNTERING IT AMOUNTS TO NO MORE THAN COVERING ONE'S EARS. IT'S A SERIOUS DRAWBACK.

BUT THE VICTIM MUST **HEAR** IT. THE CURSE ENTERS THE VICTIM'S BODY THROUGH THE AUDITORY NERVE, WHICH MEANS IT CAN ONLY WORK ON THE UNWARY OR THE DEFENSELESS.

YUCK! **ALGAE** CLOGGING MY EARS! NO WONDER EVERYTHING WAS MUFFLED.

!!

BUT... BUT **HE** DIDN'T KNOW THAT!

WHAT?

I CAN'T HEAR A THING!

TAP TAP

?!

...IS EVENTUALLY BROUGHT UP **SHORT** BY HIS **IGNORANCE.** YOU LOSE!!

A DEMON LIKE YOU WHO ACQUIRES SECRETS BY STEALING INSTEAD OF STUDYING...

UH...

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS **REVERSE** THE CURSE AND...

VIP

I HAVE **NOT** LOST!!

TRUE, I BARELY HAVE THE STRENGTH TO STAND...

...UNTIL YOU **FINISH** YOUR SPELL?

HEH HEH... YOU FIGURE I'LL JUST HANG LOOSE...

!!

...BUT **FALLING** WILL BE A CINCH!

AAAAH!

ELBOW DROP!!

SQUISH

WIN

MAN... CAN BARELY... RAISE MY EYELIDS...

AND COLLAPSING... EVEN SIMPLER...

MM!

MAY NOT BE MUCH LEFT OF ME, BUT I WON.

WELL, OLD WOMAN?

YAY!

KUWABARA, 20 METERS AWAY, OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND...

URAMESHI YUSUKE IS THE SUCCESSOR!!

KUWABARA WILL BE OKAY. THE MASTER'S MENDED HIS BROKEN BONES.

THAT'S WHAT MY TECHNIQUES ARE REALLY FOR - HEALING, NOT HARM.

I'LL POP RANDO INTO A SAFE OR SOMETHING AND TAKE HIM TO JAIL.

AND SO...

HA! TIED UP IN HIS OWN WEB, I SEE!

HUH?

WHOA, SONNY. WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?

STILL HAVEN'T HAD YOUR FILL OF **COMBAT** YET?

AWRIGHT, **MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!!** NOW I'M OFF TO THE CHAMPIONSHIPS AT THE TOKYO DOME!

...I ACTUALLY HAVE TO **STUDY?!**

Y' MEAN...

YOU'RE GOING TO LEARN THE BASICS OF REIKI.

THIS WAS ALL ABOUT FINDING MY SUCCESSOR. THAT'S **YOU**, YUSUKE!

SO YOU'LL BE **STAYING** HERE TO TRAIN!!

CHALLENGE FROM DEMON CITY!!

IT'S BEEN ABOUT 2 WEEKS SINCE HE LEFT FOR THE MOUNTAINS.

HE'S NOT **BACK** YET?!

HE CALLS ONCE IN A WHILE, SO IT SEEMS HE'S STILL ALIVE...

HARD TO BELIEVE...

WHAT THE HECK IS HE UP TO NOW?

JUST SO HE DOESN'T FORGET HIS HOME-WORK...

...BUT HE'S CAUGHT UP IN SOME KIND OF TRAINING.

OH!

HM?

YUSUKE!!

YO,
KEIKO.
WHAT'S
UP?

THE DOCTORS WERE AMAZED. GUESS THAT'S WHAT REIKI CAN DO FOR YA.

SO YOUR ARM'S OKAY NOW?

GOOD AS NEW. AND MY MUSCLES ARE IN BETTER SHAPE THAN EVER.

CHALLENGE FROM DEMON CITY!!

YOU DON'T LOOK ANY DIFFERENT.

SO HOW'D YOUR TRAINING WITH THE MASTER GO?

IT WAS NO PICNIC, LET ME TELL YOU.

NAW, WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO GET MESSED UP AGAIN.

CARE FOR A PERSONAL DEMONSTRATION?

CONCENTRATE YOUR AURA INTO ONE POINT.

IF YOU GIVE AN INCH, YOU DIE.

THIS EXERCISE TEACHES DEFENSE AGAINST REIKI ATTACK.

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!

REMAIN IN THIS POSITION FOR 12 HOURS!

HAH!!

KAMEHAMEHA

NOT PAYING STRICT ATTENTION.

WE'LL KEEP AT IT UNTIL YOU CAN STAND AGAINST ANY SUCH ASSAULT.

MAKES ME CRINGE JUST **HEARING** ABOUT IT.

SHEE... ENOUGH ALREADY.

...AND I MEDITATED ON TOP OF **BURNING COALS,** AND SLEPT ON A **BED OF NAILS.**

HM?

HEY...

ANYTHING YOU CAN SHOW ME?

STILL, I LEARNED SOME COOL STUFF.

WE'RE BEING FOLLOWED.

SURE,
I GOT NUTHIN'
BETTER TO DO.
MIGHT BE FUN.

NEVER SEEN
'EM BEFORE.
WANNA TAKE
'EM ON?

YEAH,
YOU
WISH.

I'M KUWABARA,
THE **BIG**
MUSCLE
AT SARA
JR. HIGH.

YOU GUYS
KNOW WHO
YER COMIN'
UP AGAINST?

15-YEARS OLD

THEY'RE PULLIN' **SHIVS** ALREADY!

AW, MAN, THEY'RE **WHACKED OUT!**

!!

KILL KILL KILL KILL KILLLLLLSSSSSG-GRAARRRR!

KUH-KUH-KILL!

YIKES!

GRAAUGH!

CRIPES! NEVER SEEN A BUNCHA GUYS THIS OUT OF IT!

HEE HEE HEE.

GRRRR.

DIE, DIE.

GRARR RRARRR.

HUH!

CAN'T MESS AROUND, THEN.

DIE, DIE, DIE!

RRG

YEOW!! HIS FIST'S GLOWING!!

THE END

I'LL PUT YA DOWN EASY!!

FLASH

RAAH!

SPOK SPOK SPOK SPOK SPOK SPOK

JUST BASIC REIKI TECHNIQUE.

LIKE YOU HAD A MACHINE GUN!!

WOW! YOU MOWED 'EM DOWN WITHOUT LAYING A HAND ON 'EM!




NO IDEA...
WAIT A SEC!!
SO WHO ARE THESE JOKERS?


...NOT NOHOW HUMAN...
I SENSE A WEIRD AURA...


FREEZE, BUSTER!!
OVER THERE! THAT GUY!
URK.


UCK!
!


!!


SKITTER
FEH!

HAH! HIT A PERFECT GROUNDER THAT TIME.

BOTAN!

HER AGAIN! CUTE... BUT DANGER-OUS!

Where'd this come from?

YEP.

YOU **KNOW** THIS WEIRDO?

HE'S A RESIDENT OF **DEMON CITY.**

WHICH, AS IT HAPPENS, IS THE **SUBJECT** OF YOUR NEW MISSION.

IT'S A HAVEN FOR OTHERWORLD OUTLAWS.

DEMON CITY?

THEY'RE NOW ISSUING DEMANDS TO THE UNDERWORLD.

A GROUP OF DEMONS KNOWN AS "THE FOUR BEASTS" FOUNDED A CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION THAT HID OUT THERE. SOON OTHER FUGITIVE FELONS FLED TO IT, TURNING IT INTO AN IMPENETRABLE CITY OF CRIMINALS.

!

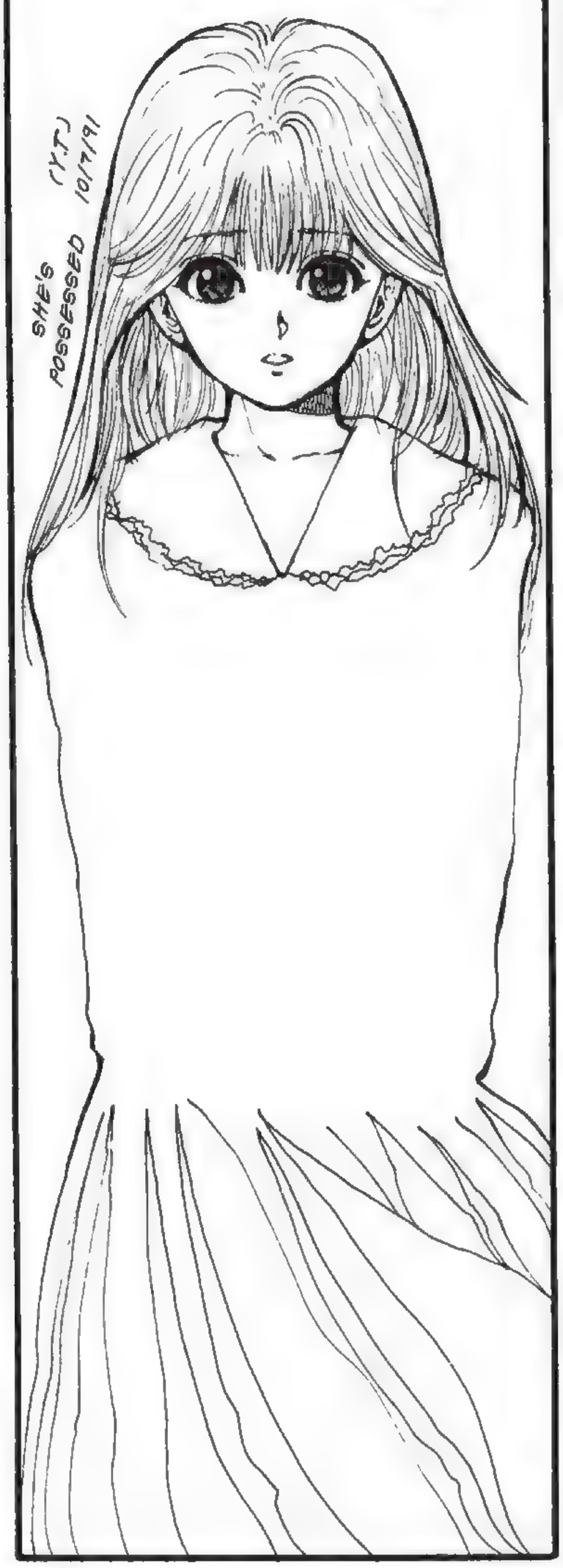
ACCESS TO THE **HUMAN** WORLD!

DEMANDS? SUCH AS...?

♪

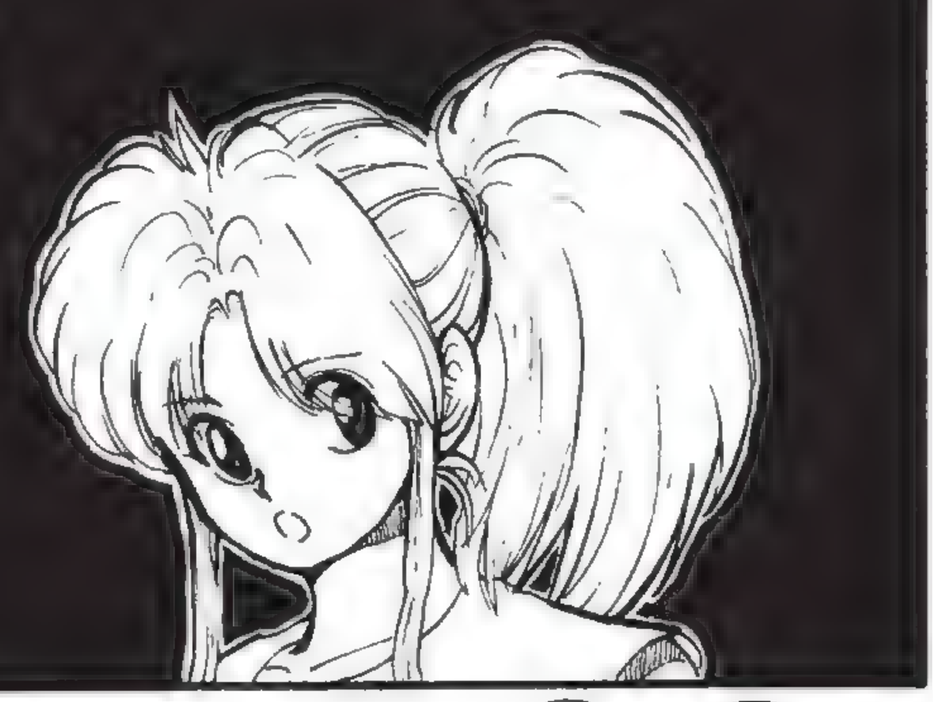
RACCOON DOG, RACCOON DOG, Haaaa....

♪



THE UNDERWORLD SET UP A FORCE FIELD BETWEEN DEMON CITY AND THE HUMAN WORLD TO PREVENT SUCH ACCESS.

BUT THE DEMONS WANT IT TAKEN DOWN.









IT'S A **ROUNDWORM MONSTER** - A PARASITE DRAWN TO DANK, GLOOMY SOULS.

BLEAH! THAT CREEPO BUG **CRAWLED** OUT OF HIS **MOUTH**...

SCREAM

THE FOUR BEASTS RELEASED **THOUSANDS** OF THEM INTO THIS CITY.

THE PEOPLE THEY INFEST ARE DRIVEN TO VIOLENCE, DESTRUCTION AND MURDER.

...AND THOSE INFESTED JUST SEEM PSYCHO.

NORMAL PEOPLE CAN'T SEE THE WORMS...

POINTLESS, I'M AFRAID.

WHAT?! WE'VE GOTTA **WARN** EVERYONE!!

AND THAT MEANS DESTROYING THE **ENABLING WHISTLE.**

THE ONLY COURSE IS TO **EXTERMINATE** THE WORMS!!

...BUT THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION.

THE FOUR BEASTS SAY THEY'LL HAND OVER THE WHISTLE IF WE TAKE DOWN THE FORCE FIELD...

YES. NORMALLY THE WORMS CAN'T SURVIVE IN THE HUMAN WORLD, BUT THIS WHISTLE ENABLES THEM TO DO SO.

A... WHISTLE?

EXACTLY!! WE MUST TAKE THE WHISTLE AND **DESTROY** IT!

OKAY, THEN THE ONLY WAY IS TO...

IF UNLEASHED, THE DEMONS COULD **KILL EVERYONE** HERE IN A **DAY!**

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

HUH?

LIKE I COULD **HELP IT?**

ZWAK

OHMIGOD! KUWABARA, YOU WERE **LISTENING?!**

SO WHAT AM I, SNAKE SPIT?

"WE" MEANING **ME**, RIGHT? I HAVE TO JUMP INTO THAT NEST OF DEMON VERMIN BY **MYSELF?!**

WE **GRAB** THIS WHISTLE THING, OR THIS TOWN WILL WIND UP **CRAWLIN'** WITH CRAZED DUDES, RIGHT?

LOVES HIS HOME-TOWN

KUWA-BARA THE MAN

WHOO WHOO

ANYWAY, I CAN SEE THESE WORMS, TOO, SO I FIGURE I'M IN THIS.

WHO

OOOO

2 HOURS LATER...
...URAMESHI AND KUWABARA SCOPE OUT THE ENEMY BASE.

SO THAT'S THEIR HIDEOUT.

HOW'S THAT FOR A QUICK CUT?

HEE HEE HEE.

I'M NOT LEAVING IT ALL UP TO **YOU** TO SAVE OUR TOWN.

YOU SURE YOU WANNA COME? YOU MAY NOT GET AWAY WITH JUST A FEW BROKEN BONES THIS TIME.

HUMANS.
HEE HEE.
FRAGRANT
HUMANS.

!!

FRAGRANT.

GUTTER IMPS
THE LOWEST CLASS OF RESIDENTS IN DEMON CITY. THEY SUBSIST MAINLY ON CARRION, BUT LOVE THE TASTE OF HUMAN FLESH. THEY SERVE THE FOUR BEASTS, AND ARE ALWAYS DESPERATE TO RISE IN RANK.

WHOP

SCUM-BALLS!!

Ack

THEY KEEP COMING!

A FEAST!
A FEAST!

HEE HEE HEE!
LET'S EAT!

HEY!! IF YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE WITH THESE **LOWLIFES**, HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO **TACKLE THE CASTLE?**

THEY'LL **OVERWHELM** US!!

THEY'RE LIKE ANTS! TOO **MANY** OF 'EM!

RAAH

ROAR

?!

WHAM BAM

YEEK!!

GAH!

THE TWO OF YOU ALONE WOULDN'T GET VERY FAR ANYWAY.

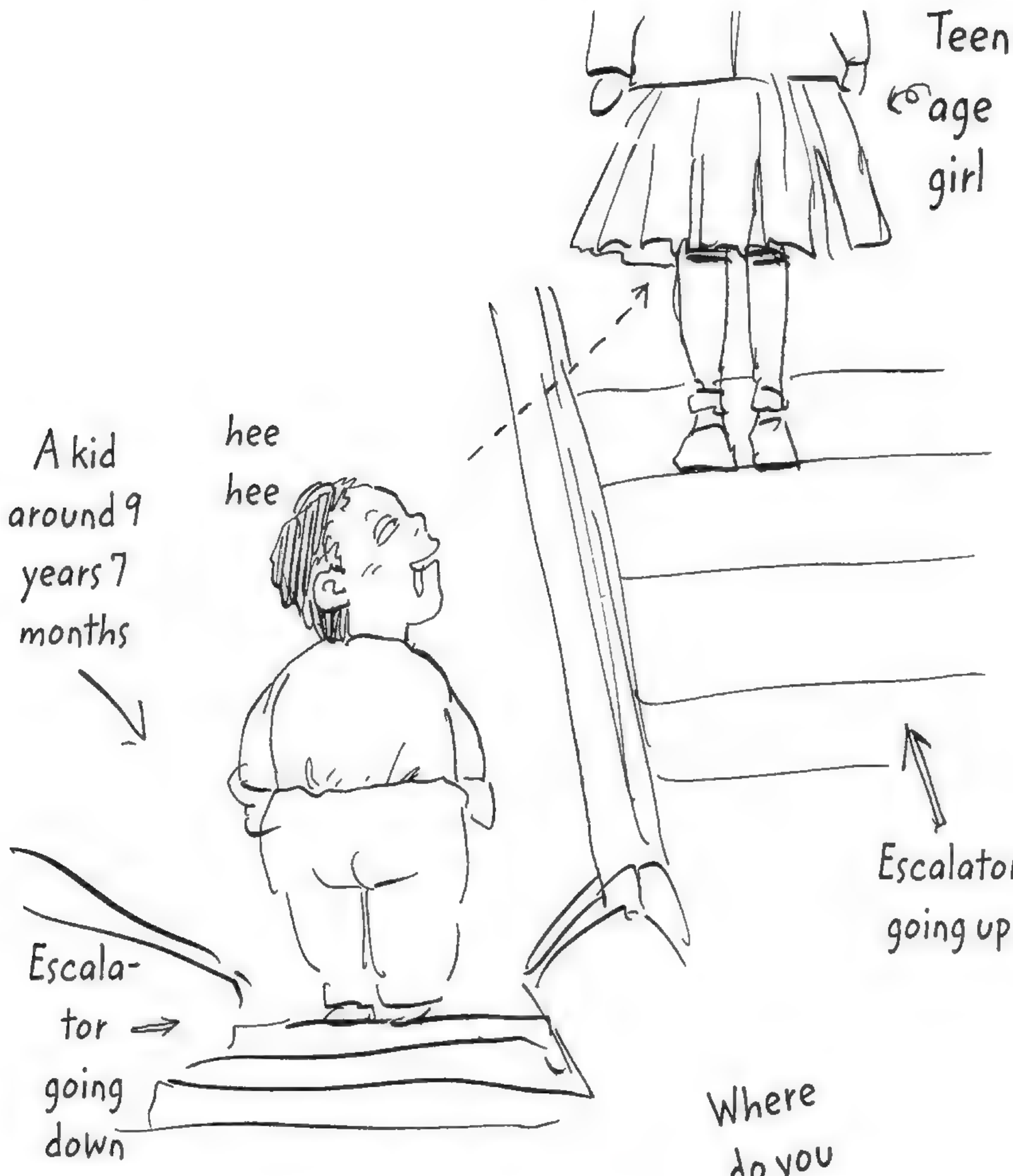
FWAP

CARE FOR SOME HELP?

WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?!

WHO THE HECK...?

My Rambling Diary, Part 4



Some day in September, '91

1) I saw a kid in a department store who clearly looked like he was lacking in gray matter. (As a fellow man, I could sort of understand - on second thought, I would probably do the same.)



2) Then the gorgeous woman ahead of him turned out to be his mother!

KURAMA AND... HIEI?!

WHAT'RE YOU TWO DOING HERE?!

HEH... COMMUNITY SERVICE IN LIEU OF JAIL TIME, YOU MIGHT SAY.

GOOD OL' KOENMA, UNPRE-DICTABLE AS EVER!

WE MIGHT EVEN EARN **PARDONS** IF WE HELP YOU TWO OUT.

KUWABARA, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE HIEI AND KURAMA.

YO.

HI.

SO DON'T EXPECT ANY HELP FROM ME, GOT IT?

YOU'VE GOT KURAMA'S ANGLE, BUT HERE'S MINE: I'M OUT TO SNATCH THE TREASURES AND WEAPONS THE FOUR BEASTS BEAT ME TO.

HE'S COPPIN' A PRETTY HIGH AND MIGHTY **ATTITUDE!**

WHAT'S WITH THE SHRIMP?

HEH.

YOU DON'T **LIKE IT,** RUNT? **TOUGH TOENAILS!!**

DOES A **DEATH WISH** CAUSE YOU TO SPEAK THAT WAY TO ME?

I'LL WARN YOU ONCE: WATCH YOUR BACK.

YUSUKE, I STILL HAVE A **SCORE** TO SETTLE WITH YOU.

DON'T FORGET ME, SHORT-STUFF!

WE CAN SQUABBLE AFTER THIS IS FINISHED.

STOP IT, HIEI.

HMPH!

YEAH, WHATEVER. FRANKLY, I'LL TAKE **ANY ALLIES** I CAN **GET.**

HMPH!

FWAM!!

THEY'RE ON THE UNDERWORLD'S **MOST** WANTED LIST, YET THEY'RE SIDING WITH **HUMANS...?**

BUZZ

BUZZ

BUZZ

OH PIZZLE, IT'S **HIEI** AND **KURAMA.**

WHOOO

SCOOT

SCUTTLE

RUMBLE

IT APPEARS THE UNDERWORLD HAS **REFUSED** OUR DEMANDS AND RESORTED TO **FORCE.**

INTRUDERS... FOOLS WHO **DARE** PIT THEMSELVES AGAINST US.

THEY HARDLY SEEM WORTH BOTHERING ABOUT.

HMPH.

BYAKKO

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE HAD VISITORS.

GENBU

...A HODGE-PODGE BAND LIKE THAT ISN'T WORTH THE BOTHER. THEY CANNOT HOPE TO BREACH OUR WALLS.

BYAKKO IS RIGHT...

SUZAKU

WHAT SHALL WE DO, MASTER SUZAKU?

SEIRYU

HEH... YOU CAN'T SEE THEM, SO THAT'LL DO FOR INTRODUCTIONS.

THEY'LL JUST **DIE** AT THE **GATE OF BETRAYAL...**

Prologue

WHOOO

A LONG, DARK TUNNEL. BRRR.

THAT'S SOME ENTRANCE!

TRUD TRUD TRUD

LET'S GO, GUYS!

NO PLAN, NO CLUE!!

WELL, NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING GAINED!

TRIED?!

WELCOME TO LABYRINTH CASTLE.

FLUTTER FLIT FLUTTER

THOSE WHO DARE TO ENTER WILL BE TRIED AT THE GATE OF BETRAYAL.

!!

FLUTTER FLUTTER

RUMBLE

THE CEILING'S DROPPING!!

CREEPK

RARRG!!

UNH!!

BLAST YOU...!

GARR!

RRRG

IT ANALYZES THE STRENGTH OF EACH PERSON AND APPLIES THE EXACT AMOUNT OF PRESSURE THAT HE CAN TOLERATE.

IF EVEN ONE OF YOU RELAXES IN THE SLIGHTEST - **SPLAT!!**

THE GATE IS KEENLY SENSITIVE, QUITE SMART, AND VERY WICKED.

HO HO

IF NONE OF YOU ATTEMPTS A BETRAYAL, YOU'LL ALL EXHAUST YOURSELVES IN THIS FUTILE EFFORT AND **DIE TOGETHER.**

HO HO

IF ONE OF YOU STRIVES TO SAVE **HIMSELF** BY ESCAPING, THE **OTHERS** WILL BE FLATTENED.

WHAT A LOAD 'A **CRAP!**

KEE-RIPES!!

THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

AS YOU SEE, ONLY **CRAVEN TRAITORS** MAY ENTER THIS CASTLE.

RUMBLE

...

H-HIEI!!

WE MUST... MOVE THAT LEVER **BACK** UP SOMEHOW!!

RUN OUT AND TRY TO RAISE THAT LEVER BY THE EYE GUY!!

YOU'RE A LOT **FASTER** THAN THE REST OF US!

YOU GO!! YOU DON'T WANNA **TRUST** THAT LITTLE CREEP!!

ARE YOU **OUTTA YER MIND,** URA-MESHI?!

!!

DO YOU **REALLY** WANT TO TRUST ME?

MR. FLA... YOU TALKIN' 'BOUT **ME**?!

SO MR. FLAT FACE IS NOT A COMPLETE IDIOT AFTER ALL.

JUST DON'T TAKE TOO LONG, 'KAY?!

GO, HIEI!

I CAN SUPPORT YOUR SHARE OF THE WEIGHT FOR A SECOND OR TWO IF I GIVE IT ALL I'VE GOT.

!

SHWIP

FFFFF...

PFFFF!!

KROOOM

...

RAAARRG!

RAISE THE LEVER!

WHAT'RE YOU WAITIN' FOR?

ZZZAK

WHUSH

THINK IT OVER, LORD HIEI.

LEAVE THEM TO THEIR FATE, AND I WILL ESCORT YOU TO MASTER SUZAKU.

RUMBLE

YOU'RE GONNA **BETRAY** URAMESHI'S **TRUST JUST LIKE THAT?!**

YO, SHORTY!!

HO HO HO

A CRIMINAL OF YOUR CALIBER...

...WILL BE GIVEN A HEARTY WELCOME BY THE FOUR BEASTS.

WHAT A BUNCH OF **MORONS.**

HEH HEH HEH.

HEH...

RUMBLE !!

YOU HAVE NO IDEA!!

YAARG!

IT STOPPED!

THRUB

GRING

SLICE

!!

YEEEK!

...I'LL SPARE THEIR LIVES IF THEY'LL SUBMIT TO MY WILL!

TELL YOUR MASTERS...

THEY GET ONE CHANCE TO BEG FOR THEIR LIVES! THAT'S IT!!

WHOO! I'LL LET YA KNOW IN A SECOND!

YOU OKAY, URAMESHI?

GOOD WORK, HIEI!! THANKS!

I DIDN'T DO IT FOR **YOUR** SAKE!!

THIS WILL GO **FASTER** WITH **BACKUP.**

YOU'RE ONE **SUPREMELY TWISTED** GUY, M'MAN.

YOU SURE MADE US SWEAT WITH THAT IMPERIOUS ACT OF YOURS!

THUP

HMPH...

HEH... IN HIS OWN WAY, HE'S TRYING TO SAY "YOU'RE WELCOME."

I, GENBU, WILL MAKE THEM **ALL** BEG FOR **THEIRS.**

NOT THAT I'LL **LISTEN.** FOUR FRESH CORPSES, COMING UP!

THEY'VE CLEARED THE GATE OF BETRAYAL...

HIEI WANTS ME TO BEG FOR MY LIFE...?

CHECK!

YUSUKE, THIS IS BOTAN! ALL'S **QUIET** HERE IN THE HUMAN WORLD SO FAR.

FIFTEEN OUT OF THOUSANDS... A DROP IN THE BUCKET.

WE GOTTA HURRY AND SNATCH THAT **WHISTLE.**

AT THIS POINT I'VE MANAGED TO NAIL FIFTEEN ROUNDWORM MONSTERS.

FIND SOME STAIRS THAT'LL TAKE US UP.

I SEE WHY THIS PLACE IS CALLED LABYRINTH CASTLE.

BIG BOSSES LIKE TO HANG OUT ON TOP FLOORS.

THERE AREN'T ENOUGH HOURS IN THE DAY.

RIGHT!

BUT THIS MAY JUST BE THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM. SO I AGREE - **HURRY!**

...AND THERE DON'T APPEAR TO BE MANY LIKE THAT AROUND. MAYBE THERE'S MORE **HOPE** FOR HUMANITY THAN I THOUGHT.

LISTEN, THESE PARASITES ONLY SEEK OUT AND SUBSUME **SINISTER** SOULS...

AH! GOT **ANOTHER** ONE.

SQUISH

LET'S MOVE.

OKAY... THE CITY'S SAFE FOR NOW.

I MEAN, I HAVE **NO IDEA** WHAT WE'RE ABOUT TO FACE.

WHAT DO **YOU** KNOW ABOUT THESE FOUR BEASTS, KURAMA?

WELL, AS YOU MAY HAVE GATHERED FROM THE SPECIAL MEASURES THE UNDERWORLD TOOK TO RESTRICT THEM, THEY'RE **VERY DANGEROUS.**

AND THEY DON'T LOOK AT ALL HUMAN, SO BRACE YOURSELF FOR THAT.

SUCH HIGH PRAISE. **I BLUSH.**

!!

SLAM

THIS IS **ONE OF THEM?!**

HEH... INDEED IT IS. WELCOME. I, GENBU, WILL TAKE **GOOOD** CARE OF YOU.

BEHIND ME IS THE ONE STAIRCASE IN THE CASTLE THAT LEADS UP.

SHWIP

DEFEAT ME, AND GAIN THE STAIRS... OR DIE.

SHEE! BIG SUCKER...!!

GOD

SH!!

Y- YOU'VE GOTTA BE YANKIN' ME!!

COME AT ME ALL AT ONCE.

HOW D'YA FIGHT A REAL LIVE MONSTER?!

IT'LL SAVE TIME... FOR ME, ANYWAY.

FEH! WHO CARES?

ANYWAY, I CAN'T LET HIEI HAVE ALL THE FUN AND TAKE ALL THE BOWS!

LET'S SEE HOW HE HANDLES **ONE** OF US BEFORE WE COMMIT TO A JOINT ATTACK.

I'LL GIVE IT A WHIRL.

KURA-MA!

SO IT'S ONE AT A TIME, EH? COME ON, THEN.

RELAX. KURAMA MAY **SURPRISE** YOU.

LOOK, MAYBE WE COULD **SNEAK AROUND** HIM...

THREATEN HIM, AND HE GETS **VICIOUS** IN WAYS EVEN I DON'T LIKE TO THINK ABOUT.

NOT THAT I COULDN'T TAKE HIM, OKAY?

FACT IS, I TEAMED UP WITH HIM BECAUSE THAT'S A LOT SMARTER THAN GOING UP **AGAINST** HIM.

ALL RIGHT, I'LL MAKE THE FIRST MOVE.

...

WHENEVER YOU'RE READY.

CRUCH

HIS TAIL'S **MELTING** INTO THE ROCK FLOOR!

?!

STAND!

HA HA HA! ROCK IS MY ELEMENT! I MOVE FREELY IN IT!

IT ALLOWS ME TO DO THINGS LIKE... THIS!!

?!

AND IT'S COMING UP BEHIND KURAMA!!

ドス

KURAMA!!

GENBU IS...THE VERY ROCK!!

HE SLID HIS TAIL RIGHT THROUGH ROCK!

AND NAILED KURAMA!!

AS YOU NOW REALIZE, THIS **ENTIRE ROOM** IS AN **EXTENSION** OF MYSELF!

YOU HAVE **NO HOPE** OF ESCAPE!!

RRRG

KURAMA, SAY SOMETHING! **ANYTHING!**

GENBU JUST CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD, IS ALL.

IT'S OKAY. I'VE HAD **WORSE...** AS YOU KNOW.

CRACK

PUT ON THE TOUGH ACT IF YOU LIKE...

HEH HEH.

GACK!! NOW HIS **WHOLE BODY'S** SINKING INTO THE FLOOR!

...BUT I'M JUST GETTING **STARTED.**

WHSSSSS

AND NO TELLING WHERE HE'LL COME OUT!

HE'S TOTALLY GONE!

SHK

ANOTHER SNEAK ATTACK!!

KRO

BOO!

WO

HE'S GETTIN' IT FROM **BOTH SIDES!!**

WHOOSH

WHAM

CRACK

NO FAIR, CREEPOID!

THERE HE GOES **AGAIN!**

CRUNCH

THUMP

YOU WON'T WIN JUST BY DODGING, DEMON THIEF!!

YOU HAVE A POINT.

IT'S TIME I GAVE AS WELL AS GOT.

THIS ISN'T JUST ANY ROSE...

A ROSE?!

KURAMA, ARE YOU CRAZY?!

...IT'S MY ROSE WHIP!!

DARE I SAY IT... FLOWER POWER?

THE ROOM SMELLS... NICE. WHAT'S GOING ON?

STUP

GUESS WE'LL FIND OUT. READY WHEN YOU ARE.

HOW WILL YOU WIELD THAT WHIP AGAINST SOMEONE WHO CAN **STRIKE** AT YOU FROM **ANYWHERE?**

HEH HEH... FOOL.

I'LL CUT YOU TO **RIBBONS** WITH **ONE SLASH!**

INTERESTING...!!

WHAT?!

AH! UP THERE!!

NOW THAT THE AIR'S BEEN PURIFIED BY THE SCENT OF ROSES, IT'S EASY TO PINPOINT **YOUR** PUTRID STENCH.

HEH! I **SMELLED** YOUR AURA.

HOW DID YOU **KNOW?!**

THE **THORNS** ON THAT WHIP **CUT THROUGH STEEL** LIKE A HOT KNIFE THROUGH BUTTER!

HE'S **GOT** HIM!!

THORN WHIP LASH!

THAT GUY WASN'T SO TOUGH AFTER ALL!

STELLAR! HE DISMEMBERED GENBU WITH ONE WHIPCRACK!!

WHY D'YOU KEEP TORQUEIN' ME OFF EVERY TIME YOU OPEN YOUR YAP?!

YOU DOLT. KURAMA MADE IT LOOK EASY, BUT YOU'D HAVE BEEN DEAD AT GENBU'S FIRST STRIKE.

YEAH, WE STILL HAVE TO...

KNOCK IT OFF, YOU TWO.

LISTEN, I PLACED THIRD IN THE COMPETITION TO CHOOSE MASTER GENKAI'S SUCCESSOR!

HUH?!

WE'RE NOT DONE HERE.

I SHOULD CARE?

CRACK

CRICKLE

CRICK

CRUNCH

?!

AS YOU SEE, I FIND BEING SLICED TO PIECES NO MORE THAN A MOMENT'S INCONVENIENCE!!

CLOOK

RU

MB

OH, THAT'S NOTHING. WATCH THIS!

HE'S... UNKILLABLE!!

GRANITE-BUTT PUT HIMSELF BACK TOGETHER!!

EXPLODING ROCK!! TAKE THAT, THIEF!!

WHAM

WHOA!

SLICE

SLICE

NUTHIN' BUT GRAVEL NOW...

THAT PULVERIZED 'IM!

CLINT

KURAMA CAN'T WIN!

EVEN THAT DIDN'T DO IT!!

HEH HEH. AS I SAID, A MERE INCONVENIENCE.

EXPLODING ROCK!!

YOU BORE ME, TWERP - DIE!!

AGAIN?!

UNH!!

BLOCK!

STILL BREATHING, BUT CLEARLY NO FIGHT LEFT.

KRAK

WELL, THEN, I'LL PUT YOU **OUT** OF YOUR **MISERY!**

HA HA! HAS FEAR SNAPPED YOUR MIND?!

HEH HEH HEH.

HEH... HEH HEH...

HE...HE'S UPSIDE DOWN...?!

GUH...?!

!!

HA HA HA HA!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

WHERE IS IT?! WHERE'S MY-

HYI! IT'S GONE!!

GAAH!

LOOKING FOR THIS?

BA-BUMP

BA-BUMP

W-WAIT!!

DON'T HURT IT!!

YOU MADE IT LOOK LIKE ANY OTHER PIECE OF YOU, BUT I SAW THE **GLINT** AS IT **EMITTED ENERGY.**

PART OF MY SUCCESS AS A THIEF, YOU SEE, IS THAT I'M GOOD AT FINDING WHAT'S HIDDEN.

I FIGURE THIS IS YOUR **CONTROL CORE,** THE PART THAT KEEPS ALL THE PIECES OF YOUR BODY ORGANIZED.

FLING

WELL, NOW...

GAAH!

THW

OCK

BOOM

CLATTER

YOU DID IT!! AND JUST WHAT HE DESERVED!!

GENBU WAS A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT. KURAMA WON'T BE ABLE TO GO ON...

KURAMA!!

SLUMP

UNH...!!

YEAH, I'LL WORK THE NEXT CREEPOID OVER!!

THE OTHERS CAN'T BE THIS MONSTROUS.

NO PROBLEM! LEAVE THE REST TO US!!

TO BE CONTINUED...